

About ICLAC

The International Cell Line Authentication Committee (ICLAC) aims to make cell line misidentification more visible and to promote awareness and authentication testing as effective ways to combat it.

Cell lines are essential resources for biomedical research. A cell line is misidentified if it no longer corresponds to the individual from whom it was first established. Often this arises through cross-contamination, where a different cell line is introduced by accident and overgrows the original sample. Since misidentified cell lines may represent an entirely different cell type (or even a different species), these imposters will produce inaccurate science and waste precious resources if not detected.

ICLAC was formed in 2012 after publication of an ANSI Standard (ANSI/ATCC ASN-0002-2011) setting out best practice for authentication testing of human cell lines. The group maintains a database of misidentified cell lines and a web page of resources for authentication testing. Its database lists more than 400 known misidentified cell lines, arising from the work of laboratories and cell line repositories worldwide.

ICLAC members have a long track record in uncovering misidentified cell lines and have expertise in authentication testing and database applications. Members act in a voluntary capacity and meet every 2-3 months by teleconference. Correspondence between meetings occurs primarily by email. Administrative support and website resources are made available from the ATCC Standard Development Organization (SDO) in Manassas VA, USA.

More information and the database of misidentified cell lines can be found on the ICLAC web page: http://standards.atcc.org/kwspub/home/the_international_cell_line_authentication_committee-iclac/